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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION

(for the period 1 April-30 September 1993)

INTRODUCTION

1. By paragraph 5 of its resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, the Security Council established a demilitarized zone (DMZ) along the Iraq-Kuwait boundary and decided to set up an observer unit with the following tasks: to monitor the Khawr Abd Allah waterway and the DMZ; to deter violations of the boundary through its presence in and surveillance of the DMZ; and to observe any potentially hostile action mounted from the territory of one State into the other. By its resolution 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991, the Security Council approved the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the above provisions (S/22454); noted that the decision to set up the observer unit had been taken in paragraph 5 of resolution 687 (1991) and could be terminated only by a decision of the Council; and decided to review the question of termination or continuation as well as the modalities of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) every six months. The Security Council last reviewed this matter on 7 April 1993 and concurred with my recommendation (S/25514, para. 32) that UNIKOM be maintained for a further six-month period (S/25588). The purpose of the present report is to provide the Security Council, prior to its forthcoming review, with an overview of UNIKOM's activities during the last six months.

I. ORGANIZATION

2. As of September 1993, the composition of UNIKOM was as follows:

Military observers

Argentina	6
Austria	7
Bangladesh	6
Canada	5
China	15
Denmark	6
Fiji	6
Finland	7
France	15
Guyana	6
Greece	6
Hungary	6
India	6
Indonesia	6
Ireland	6
Italy	7
Kenya	6
Malaysia	6
Nigeria	6
Norway	8
Pakistan	7
Poland	7
Romania	6
Russian Federation	15
Senegal	6
Singapore	6
Sweden	7
Thailand	6
Turkey	7
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	15
Uruguay	6
United States of America	15
Venezuela	7
Total	252 a/

Administrative and logistic units

Engineers (Argentina)	50	
Logistics (Denmark)	45	
Medical (Norway)	20	
Total		115
Total military personnel		367

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a/ The authorized strength of the military observers is 300, of whom 48 are on stand-by in their countries. Four military observers have been temporarily detached to assist the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia.

UNIKOM also has 185 civilian staff, of whom 79 are recruited internationally and 106 locally.

3. Major-General T. K. Dibuama (Ghana) continued as Chief Military Observer until 20 August 1993. Since then, the UNIKOM Chief of Staff, Brigadier-General Vigar Aabrek (Norway), has been Acting Chief Military Observer. I shall revert to the Security Council concerning the appointment of the new Chief Military Observer.

4. UNIKOM has two small fixed-wing civilian aircraft contributed by the Government of Switzerland at no cost to the Organization and three chartered helicopters. It also has the use of a chartered aircraft for the transport of personnel and equipment between Baghdad and Kuwait.

5. As already reported (S/25514, para. 4), the Canadian engineers were replaced by an Argentinian unit, which reached its full strength in mid-September. The unit arrived without much of the equipment it requires, as it was deemed to be more economical to arrange for the supply of the equipment in the area. Efforts continue to achieve this.

6. The Danish logistic unit continued to carry out vehicle maintenance, supply and security tasks, the latter mainly for the headquarters facilities at Umm Qasr and Camp Khor and for the logistic base at Doha.

7. The Norwegian medical unit continued to provide a sick-bay facility in Umm Qasr, serving the headquarters and the northern sector, and first aid posts at the central and southern sector headquarters. The unit also provided emergency assistance to civilians injured in the DMZ. The Government of Norway has informed me that it intends to withdraw the unit at the end of October. I have approached a number of States for a replacement, so far without result.

8. Concerning the reinforcement of UNIKOM in pursuance of Security Council resolution 806 (1993) of 5 February 1993, it has not been possible, despite strenuous efforts, to identify a Member State which is in a position to provide a suitably equipped mechanized infantry battalion. However, one Member State has offered to provide an infantry battalion if the United Nations would provide

the armoured vehicles, heavy transport and other equipment. Such equipment would normally be integral to the battalion and there is no provision for its purchase in the budget. I am in touch with a Government which has indicated that it would be willing to provide the equipment for the battalion. The Government of Kuwait has also agreed to build the two camps in which the unit is to be accommodated and to make them available to UNIKOM at no charge.

II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

9. UNIKOM remained deployed in the DMZ as outlined in previous reports (see attached map). For operational purposes it has divided the DMZ into three sectors. Its concept of operations is based on a combination of patrol/observation bases, observation points, ground and air patrols, investigation teams and liaison with the parties at all levels. UNIKOM employs surveillance aids, which include maritime radar for the Khawr Abd Allah, night vision devices, high-powered binoculars and video cameras. In addition, UNIKOM uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) for the accurate determination of locations in the terrain.

10. In a letter dated 12 May 1993, the Permanent Representative of Kuwait informed me of his Government's decision to establish a border security system, comprising a trench, an earthen embankment and a patrol road, along the entire length of the land portion of the demarcated boundary between Kuwait and Iraq. This project commenced on 12 June, and at the time of reporting the work was nearly completed in the southern and central sectors. Four crossing points have been constructed for use by UNIKOM, one in each sector and an additional one on the main road at Safwan. UNIKOM will review this arrangement from time to time in the light of its operational requirements.

11. UNIKOM has liaison offices in Baghdad and Kuwait City, and the Chief Military Observer and other senior staff of UNIKOM have maintained regular contacts with the authorities in both capitals. At the local level, liaison continued with the police on both sides, which has been useful in dealing with violations and complaints. Following the recent establishment of a Kuwaiti office in the DMZ, both sides now have liaison facilities within easy reach of UNIKOM's headquarters. The Iraqi authorities have also established liaison offices at the sector level.

III. SITUATION IN THE DMZ

12. During the period under review, the situation in the DMZ was calm.

13. UNIKOM observed three types of violations of the DMZ; minor incursions by military personnel on the ground; overflights by military aircrafts; and violations involving the carrying and firing of weapons other than sidearms, the majority of which were committed by policemen. The following table summarizes the violations observed by UNIKOM.

	Iraq				Kuwait			
	Ground	Air	Weapon	Total	Ground	Air	Weapon	Total
April	3	0	0	3	0	0	7	7
May	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	4
June	2	0	0	2	2	0	10	12
July	0	0	1	1	0	0	9	9
August	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
September	2	0	2	4	2	0	1	3
Total	8	0	4	12	6	0	31	37

	Member States cooperating with Kuwait				Unidentified			
	Ground	Air	Weapon	Total	Ground	Air	Weapon	Total
April	2	1	0	3	0	7	0	7
May	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	3
June	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
July	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	1	0	4	0	18	0	18

14. During the reporting period, UNIKOM received eight written complaints from Iraq and none from Kuwait. UNIKOM investigated each complaint and conveyed its findings to the Iraqi authorities. These complaints were about firing at police posts close to the boundary and violations of air space.

15. Much of the DMZ is still littered with unexploded ordnance and debris left over from the war, in particular on the Iraqi side of the border. Private companies under contract to the Government of Kuwait have continued clearing operations on the Kuwaiti side of the DMZ and are currently working in areas along the boundary. The Iraqi authorities also continued to employ civilian work teams inside the DMZ for clearing unexploded ordnance and retrieving equipment damaged during the war. UNIKOM has been kept informed of these activities and monitored them closely.

16. It will be recalled that I have offered my assistance to the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait in the settlement of issues involving Iraqi citizens and their assets found to be on Kuwaiti territory following the demarcation of the boundary. The Government of Kuwait has indicated that it would not be possible for these Iraqi citizens to remain in Kuwait and has offered to pay compensation for their private property and assets. It has requested that the assessment be carried out by a neutral party designated by the United Nations. The Government of Iraq, while rejecting the principle of relocation and compensation, stated that it would take no action that might provoke dispute or contention with the United Nations. I have, in the meantime, selected an experienced land assessor

who is in the process of valuing the private Iraqi farms in the Safwan area and the private Iraqi assets at Umm Qasr. On the basis of his assessment and after consultations with the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, I intend to determine the amount of compensation. I am also ready to assist with the process of compensation. I have appealed to the parties to exercise maximum restraint and to cooperate in the search for a peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues.

17. UNIKOM continued to provide technical support to other United Nations missions in Iraq and Kuwait. In particular, it assisted the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission and the United Nations Coordinator for the Return of Property from Iraq to Kuwait. UNIKOM continued to provide movement control in respect of all United Nations aircraft operating in the area.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

18. By its resolution 47/208 B of 14 September 1993, the General Assembly authorized me to enter into commitments for UNIKOM at a rate not to exceed $6,250,825 gross ($6,064,700 net) per month for the four-month period from 1 November 1993 to 28 February 1994. This authorization is subject to the Security Council's review of the mandate of the Mission and to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

19. Should the Security Council continue the mandate of UNIKOM beyond 9 October 1993, the monthly cost of maintaining the Mission will be limited to the commitment authority contained in General Assembly resolution 47/208 B. I shall report to the Advisory Committee and to the General Assembly on the additional requirements needed, if any, for the maintenance of the Mission. In this regard, by letter dated 17 July 1993 and addressed to me, the Permanent Representative of Kuwait conveyed his Government's decision to defray two thirds of the cost of UNIKOM.

20. Unpaid assessed contributions to the UNIKOM Special Account for the period since the inception of the Mission through 31 August 1993 amounted to $26.5 million.

V. OBSERVATIONS

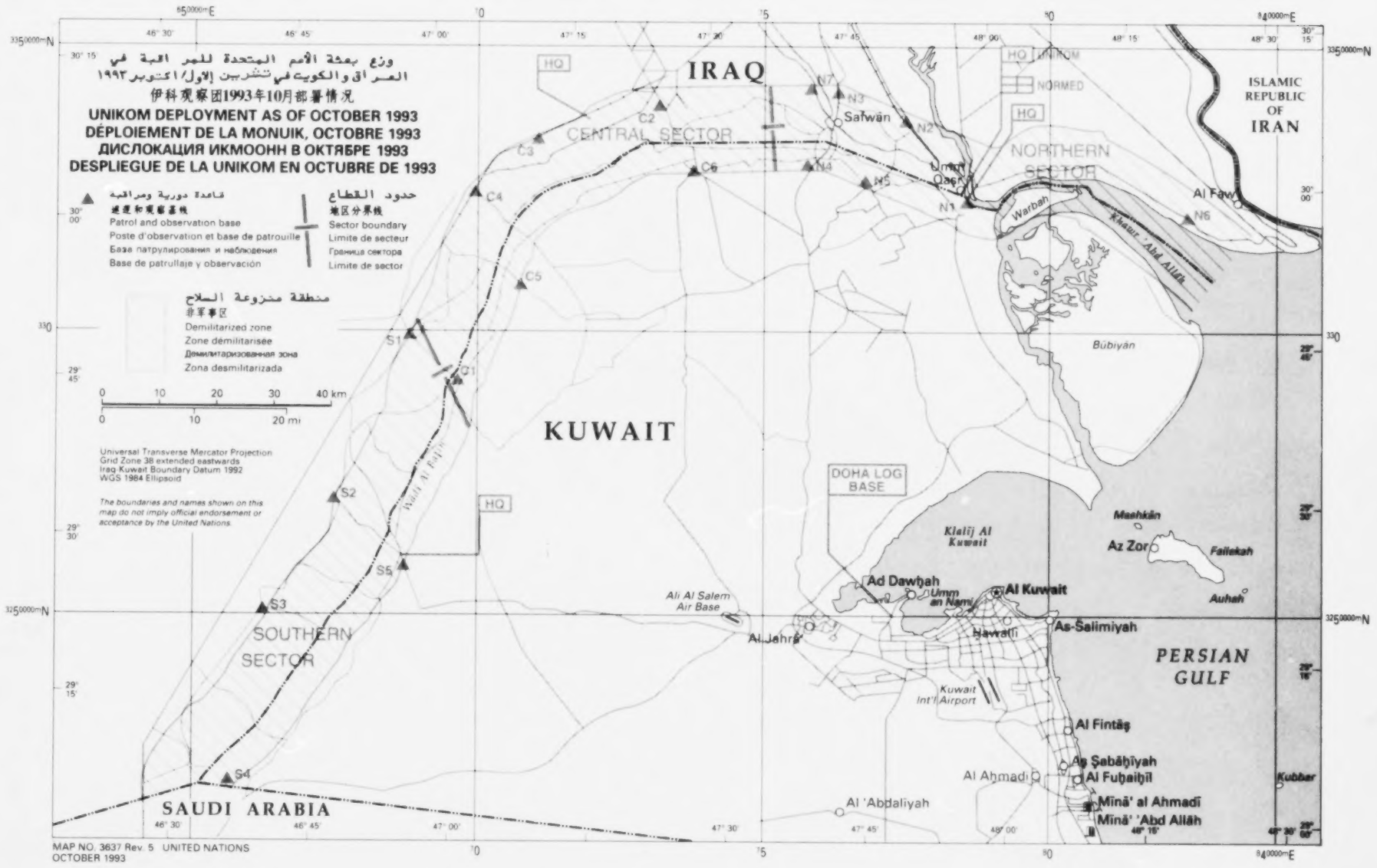
21. During the last six months, the UNIKOM area of operations has been calm. Through close monitoring of the area and constant liaison with the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities, UNIKOM has played its part in preventing incidents and redressing the minor violations that have occurred. In discharging its responsibilities, UNIKOM has received the cooperation of both sides.

22. The present calm along the Iraq-Kuwait border should not obscure the fact that tensions persist and full peace has yet to be restored to the area. In the circumstances, the presence of UNIKOM remains an important factor of stability along the Iraq-Kuwait border. I therefore recommend that the Mission be maintained for a further six-month period.

23. I regret that it has not been possible to make more progress on the strengthening of UNIKOM. This is the reflection of a recent trend whereby contributions to new United Nations peace-keeping operations are increasingly at the expense of the existing ones, especially those where the situation is reasonably calm. In addition, certain specialized units have become very hard to find and I am having difficulty obtaining a replacement for the Norwegian medical unit. I shall, of course, continue my efforts to overcome these difficulties.

24. In this connection, I note with appreciation the decision of the Government of Kuwait to defray the cost of two thirds of the UNIKOM budget. This will considerably ease the burden on Member States of maintaining the Mission.

25. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to the Chief Military Observer and to the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have carried out their difficult task. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.



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